



SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

March 20, 2012

Mr. Isiah Leggett County Executive Executive Office Building Office 101 Monroe Street 2 nd Floor Rockville, Maryland 20850	Mr. Roger Berliner Council President Stella B. Warner Council Building 100 Maryland Avenue Rockville, Maryland 20850	Ms. Valerie Ervin Council Member Stella B. Warner Council Building 100 Maryland Avenue Rockville, Maryland 20850
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RE: ADVICE TO FACILITATE SAFE, STREET-LEVEL ACCESS TO THE NEW SILVER SPRING LIBRARY

Dear Mr. Leggett, Mr. Berliner, and Ms. Ervin,

We are writing to make specific suggestions facilitating safe, street-level access to the new Silver Spring Library. We thank the Department of General Services (DGS) and Department of Transportation (DOT) for the attention they are giving to the topic and for welcoming our input.

Our board has long echoed our community in requesting the major improvements necessary to make the new Silver Spring Library accessible to pedestrians and transit users. We thank the county for its responsiveness to our 2008 to 2010 efforts to:

- promote a safe street-level crossing across Wayne Ave. instead of a parking lot bridge
- improve the program of requirements so that it would more closely match community needs

We hope to continue the helpful dialogue with the following suggestions as construction begins.

The pedestrian crossings at the corner of Wayne Ave. and Fenton St. will require considerable improvements because they will serve as key entry points to the new Silver Spring Library. The library will likely receive well over 1 million visitors per year, many of whom will cross Wayne Ave. by foot. Our community strongly favors making Silver Spring a more walkable and pedestrian-friendly community, so our library will need a safe and welcoming street-level crossing that is accessible to everyone. To achieve this, we strongly urge DGS and DOT to go beyond conventional crosswalk practices to creatively consider:

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Mr. Leggett and Mr. Berliner and Ms. Ervin (Page 2)

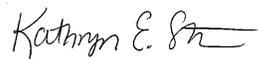
- Improved crosswalks that would create a comfortable pedestrian environment by including some of the following special treatments:
 - Being significantly wider and more visible (via paint, design, edge lines, and lighting).
 - Being raised to slow traffic and facilitate crossing.
 - Being stamped and attractively designed in all four directions.
- Improved traffic engineering and signalization, including
 - Going beyond 5- or 6-second pedestrian lead times to instead create pedestrian-only crossing times.
 - Employing red turn arrows to ensure safer pedestrian crossing and reduce the chances of cars turning into pedestrians.
 - Increasing the time allowed for pedestrian travel.
 - Exploring broader options that could restrict auto traffic but make the area more pedestrian friendly, including one-way streets and no-turn intersections.
- Effective but attractive, perhaps plant-based, barriers to dissuade mid-block crossings
- Introducing an all-stop/four-way/barnes crossing at nearby intersections if it is impossible at Wayne Ave. and Fenton St.
- Improved signage and lighting.

Although repainting/restriping is certainly important to increasing crosswalk visibility, it is just one small component of the needed improvements. Our community believes that far more is necessary, including some of changes above that will – and should – affect auto traffic in order to make the area more pedestrian-friendly.

Access to the library should be as important as the structure itself. Even if a parking lot bridge is built some years in the future, we urge that the creation of safe, street-level pedestrian crossings. Thank you for considering pedestrian access as an important part of the library planning.

We look forward to cooperating and helping in this process, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kathy Stevens, Chair
Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

cc:

David Dise, Department of General Services Director
Susanne Churchill, Architect, DGS
Don Scheuerman, Chief Project Manager, DGS
Art Holmes, Department of Transportation Director
David Dunckel, Pedestrian Specialist, DOT
Tom Street, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer